

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:406

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

PROCUREMENT OF MUSTARD

Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed by the Government for procurement of mustard during the current season;
- (b) the quantum of mustard already procured;
- (c) whether the slow pace of procurement has made it difficult to achieve the target;
- (d) if so, whether this has forced the farmers to sell their produce to private traders at unremunerative price; and
- (e) if so, the details of the arrangements made by the Government to procure mustard at Minimum Support Price alongwith the number of centres opened, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):

(a) and (b) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the procurement is undertaken without any quantitative ceiling and continues till the prices stabilize at Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. As such, no target is fixed for procurement under PSS. As on 17.4.2005, a quantity of 10.08 lakh MT of mustard seed has been procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) under PSS during Rabi-2005, crop season.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NAFED, as a Central Government designated agency has made adequate arrangements for procurement of mustard seed. These include inter-alia procurement of gunny bags, booking of storage space and sanction of Cash Credit Limit by RBI. 525 procurement centres are presently in operation. Their State-wise break up is as under:

State No. of procurement centres

Rajasthan	264
Gujarat	44
Haryana	45
Madhya Pradesh	150
Uttar Pradesh	14
Delhi	2
Punjab	4
Chhattisgarh	2
Total:	525